

**Question for written answer E-005558/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Duty-free: the case of Moldova

The Government of Moldova has published a draft law under which as of 1 July 2018 - but up to the expiration of the licenses in force at the (unpredictable) date of its enforcement - tax and customs facilities for duty-free shops located in Moldova or at its border entry points will be revoked. Should Moldova join the EU, the same will apply from accession in the case of shops operating at Moldova's border exit points and in the Transnistria region.

The transition period provided for under Council Directive 2008/118/EC of 16 December 2008 concerning the general arrangements for excise duty grants Member States the possibility of exemption from excise duty, for a period of up to 9 years and 5 months, of the products sold by duty-free shops (as in the cases of Romania and Greece), while the time-limit granted by this draft law would in some cases would be less than one year, a period which does not seem proportionate to the recommendations of Directive 2008/118/EC.

Can the Commission state whether it believes this draft law to be compliant with the principle of harmonisation of Moldovan legislation with the relevant EU directives and the DFCTA provisions (particularly those of its Articles 110 and 143 to 152), or whether it sees it as contrary to the right of ownership protected by Article 1 of Protocol No 1 to the European Convention on Human Rights?

Can the Commission state how it could intervene on this matter?